

REMARKS

In the first Action dated October 7, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claim 5 on the ground that the terminology “series of pluses” was not defined in the specification. Claim 5 was amended by the Amendment dated January 7, 2005 to specify that the current “is a pulsed D.C. current.” It was pointed out that this language is specifically set forth on page 4, line 4 of the specification. In the initial Action, the Examiner stated that “The prior art rejection has not been applied to claim 5, because the meaning of ‘series of pluses’ is not comprehensible.” In the Final Rejection, the Examiner does not raise any objection to the amended language in Claim 5. Further, other than the rejection of all claims under 35 USC 112 for the addition to Claim 1 of the limitation “nonmagnetic” in connection with the resin, the Examiner has not rejected Claim 5. The Examiner has not made any art rejection of Claim 5. Claim 5 is now written in independent form without the “nonmagnetic” limitation so should overcome the Final Rejection under 35 USC 112. Further, since Claim 5 has not been rejected on prior art, Claim 5 should now be allowable.

The Examiner has finally rejected Claims 4 and 6 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Kochen in view of RU’254 or RU’693, each one individually. The Examiner says “Kochen discloses the assembly according to the preferred embodiment, wherein a vertical glass column (1) is placed between the pole faces (2a) and (2b) of an electromagnet. A piece of stainless steel wool (3) is positioned inside the column, approximately equidistant from both ends (col. 5, lines 1-8)”. The remainder of the Examiner’s comments deal with the use of coils or wire to create a varying magnetic field. Nothing deals with the requirement of Claim 6 of “providing a core of magnetic material in the resin bed to direct the magnetic field to the resin bed.” The only possible comment that might be directed to the use of a magnetic core is the comment regarding Kochen that Kochen discloses a piece of stainless steel wool placed in the column. However, the stainless steel wool is not placed in the resin, but is placed above the resin to “provide a barrier which is penetrable by liquid, but which is substantially impenetrable to solid beads.” Thus, the stainless steel wool is provided above the resin in the column to keep the resin at the bottom of the column and prevent it from flowing upwardly in the column with flow of water in the column being treated. The stainless steel wool is not placed as a core

in the resin bed as required by Claim 6. Further, stainless steel wool is not magnetic material. Neither RU'254 or RU'693 appear to teach a core of magnetic material in the resin bed. Thus, Claim 6, which requires "providing a core of magnetic material in the resin bed to direct the magnetic field to the resin bed" should be allowable. None of the cited prior art appears to teach this core of magnetic material and the Examiner has not indicated how this core of magnetic material is shown by or made obvious by cited art. The patentable feature of Claim 6 appears to be the core of magnetic material in the resin bed. Although Claim 6 was dependent on Claim 3, and Claim 6 has been amended to put it into independent form with the limitations of intervening claims, it does not appear that these limitations are necessary. Therefore, new Claim 24 is proposed to be added that includes the limitations of Claims 1 and 6, but not intervening claims 2 and 3. Since the non-elected claims 10-23 have been cancelled, as have rejected Claims 1, 2, and 3, the addition of a new claim after final should be appropriate.

Claims 2, 4, 7, and 9 have been amended merely to change their dependency.

It should be noted that no new limitations have been added to the claims by the present amendment so no new issues should be presented by the claims as proposed to be amended. Therefore, the claims as proposed to be amended should be proper for entry after final.

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Respectfully submitted,



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